

NORTHERN

Allen-Scott Report

Red Coup Foiled By Jilted Wife

By ROBERT L. ALLEN
and PAUL SCOTT



WASHINGTON — There is intriguing evidence that the inflamed Middle East would now be embroiled in a much wider conflict except for the fury of a woman scorned.

The jilted wife of a Soviet spy is being credited by members of the ruling Greek military junta with altering the course of history by uncovering a Moscow-directed plot to take over Greece and Cyprus, the strategic Mediterranean island.

Scheduled to take place simultaneously with Nasser's war-triggering moves in the Middle East, the Red coups were narrowly averted by the swift seizure of power by the Greek military, according to U.S. intelligence authorities.

The military's take-over and the resulting round-up of hundreds of Russian agents in Greece and on Cyprus followed the cracking of a Soviet spy ring in Turin, Italy, late in March.

The massive arrests, which included anti-monarchist leader Andreas Papandreu stemmed from the seizure and confession of Soviet spy, Giorgio "The Flying Mudman" Rinaldi-Ghislieri after he was fingered by his 52-year-old wife.

Broken-hearted over her 39-year-old spouse's affair with a younger woman, Mrs. Rinaldi-Ghislieri tipped off Italian intelligence authorities about her husband's covert activities for Moscow.

In between aerial shows in 1963, when he set an Italian record for free-fall parachuting, her husband set up a Mediterranean area espionage network for the Kremlin, Mrs. Rinaldi claimed.

The objective reportedly was to set the stage for Red coups in Greece and Cyprus as part of a double-pronged Soviet probe into the Middle East.

Once these governments were under Communist control, the Kremlin apparently planned to exert pressure on Turkey to help drive U.S. and British forces from the Eastern Mediterranean.

All was going as planned by Moscow until Mrs. Rinaldi defected. After the latter confirmed her tale of international espionage by Rinaldi's own con-

cession, they alerted high Greek military officials.

When these officers learned that hundreds of Soviet agents were involved, they decided that the only way to block the take-over was to stage a coup of their own. The Greek military acted with such speed and secrecy that they caught everyone by surprise.

Historians may also shed some light on the mysterious visit of Israel's General Moshe Dayan to Athens the day before the April 23 coup.

About all that is now known is what the general's novelist daughter, Miss Yael Dayan, told British newsmen on landing in London after flying from Athens:

"Where I go, there are revolutions. The other day I met my father in Athens. He flew in from Rome. I flew in from Tel Aviv. The coup happened the next day. My father was deeply shocked by the way the Greek army carried out their arrests. He is a socialist."

General Dayan, who in 1956 directed the successful Sinai military campaign against the Arabs, has served as Israel's defense minister since the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East.

Earlier this year, General Dayan toured U.S. military installations in Vietnam as a "writer" with a green light from Defense Secretary McNamara. He is considered one of the top military and intelligence experts in the world.

Another key personality to watch in the unfolding Middle East drama is Archbishop Makarios, prime minister of Cyprus.

Since the military take-over in Greece, the pro-Soviet Archbishop has remained stolidly silent.

At the time of the coup Makarios urgently telephoned Col. George Grivas, supreme commander of the 20,000-strong Cypriot national guard, to ask him about the radio broadcast saying the military had taken over the government in Athens.

When Grivas said he had no additional information the friends in Athens, only to learn that several of them had been arrested.